

A Celebration of The Life of

Dorothea Lee

Sunrise
December 13, 1930

Sunset
October 11, 2007



Homegoing Services

Friday, October 19, 2007

11:00 A.M.

Bethany Baptist Church

275 West Market Street, Newark, New Jersey

Officiating

Reverend Doctor M. William Howard, Jr.

Obituary of Dorothea Lee

Dorothea Lee, the second of two siblings and the only daughter born to the late Lucy and Charles Lee, entered this world on December 13, 1930, in Yonkers, New York, where she attended elementary school. During her childhood, she and her family moved to Newark, New Jersey, where she graduated from West Side High School.

Dorothea Lee, a trailblazer and role model for young African American women; graduated with the R.N. degree from the third class that admitted African Americans to the Newark City Hospital School of Nursing. While working as a nurse, she attended Seton Hall University from which she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. After serving in the Air Force and a tour of duty in France, she served in the Air Force Reserves and achieved rank of Major. During the same time, she also earned a Masters of Arts degree in Education/Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling from Seton Hall University.

Dorothea has enjoyed four (4) distinct careers of commendable achievements. She served as a psychiatric nurse for several years with the New Jersey Rehabilitation Commission before embarking upon a career in management for Planned Parenthood at the corporate headquarters in New York. After several years, she then worked as a substitute teacher and school nurse. In 1981, she began her fourth career as a manager for the Newark Housing Authority. Having amassed 23 years in housing, where she developed a reputation for dedicated service and commitment to improving the quality of life for low-income families, she retired in 2004.

Her civic and community services were punctuated by many pioneering achievements:

- First African American female inducted in the New Jersey Air National Guard;
- First African American and first female to serve as the AMVETS Post Commander;
- Charter Member, Women In Military Service for America;
- First African American and female President, Northern New Jersey Stand Down Committee, Inc.; and,
- Founding Board Member, the New Jersey Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Dorothea championed being a good citizen and civil rights advocate in many causes, most notably those that addressed racial and gender injustices, as well as those of our military veterans. At the time of her passing, she was serving as the President, Newark Branch, NAACP; Trustee of the State of New Jersey Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center; President, Northern New Jersey Stand Down Committee and, Member of the State of New Jersey Veteran Services Council.

Her other memberships and activities have included:

- Member of the McGreevey Transition Team for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs;
- Secretary of the Allied Council of New Jersey Veterans Organizations;
- President of the Northern New Jersey Stand Down Committee Inc.;
- Commander of AMVETS Post 5 Newark;
- Vice President of Club Cicuso;
- Member, Lower Lehigh Avenue Block Association;
- Chair of the Bylaws Committee for the South District Community Relations Council; and,
- Member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark Wine Tasting Committee
- Commander, AMVETS, Post 5 Newark;
- Life Member, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club's, Incorporated;
- Life Member, National Council Negro Women;
- Life Member, Sal Capriglione Chapter-Air Force Association;
- Golden Heritage Life Member, Newark Branch NAACP;
- Subscribing Diamond Life Member, Newark Branch NAACP;
- Life Member, AMVETS;
- Life Member, American Legion Post 152;
- Charter Member, Women In Military Service for America;
- Executive Committee Member and Parliamentarian, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Omicron Xi Omega Chapter;
- Newark City Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Chapter;
- National Association for Black Veterans; and,
- South District Police Community Relations Council.

A longtime community volunteer, Dorothea served as:

- Member of the Southside Newark First Aid Squad;
- President of the Ironbound Educational and Cultural Center;
- Assistant Leader Girl Scout Troop #48;
- Member of Newark Subarea Advisory Council of the Regional Health Planning Council;
- Member of Central Ward Juvenile Conference Committee;
- Participant, United Way of Essex and West Hudson Celebrity Read Program;
- Chairperson of the Newark Commission on Veterans Affairs;
- Member of District VA Fee Arbitration Committee;
- Mentor, One to One New Jersey;
- Management Team of League of Women Voters of Newark;
- AMVETS National Women Veterans Committee;
- Essex Cares for Kids Advisory Committee;
- President of the Friends of Wynona M. Lipman;
- Governor, Northeast District of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC);
- President, North Jersey Unit, NANBPWC
- Treasurer, Essex County Club, NANBPWC
- National Awards Chairwoman, NANBPWC
- Veteran Affairs Chairperson, Sal Capriglione Chapter of the Air Force Association;
- Member of the National Council of Women of the United States; and,
- Veteran Grand Marshall - East Orange Memorial Day Parade.

Dorothea has had biographical listings in Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who in the East, Two Thousand Women of Achievement, Who's Who Among Black Americans, and the World's Who's Who of Women. In addition, Dorothea has been the recipient of many awards including:

- New Jersey Medal of Merit
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- National Defense Service Medal
- Professional Women of the Year, North Jersey Unit, NANBPWC, Inc.
- Special Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership - Urban League Guild of Essex County
- Community Service Award - Theatre of Universal Images Board of Directors
- Outstanding Leadership - Concerned Black Nurses of Newark, Inc.
- Community Service Award - United Way of Essex and West Hudson
- Public Sector Charitable Campaign Award - United Way of Essex and West Hudson
- Distinguished Service Award - New Jersey for the Rainbow Coalition
- Certificate of Appreciation - United Way of Essex and West Hudson Celebrity Read Program
- AMVET of the Year Award - AMVETS Department of New Jersey
- Employee of the Month Certification of Recognition - Newark Housing Authority
- National Sojourner Truth Award - NANBPWC, Inc.
- Community Service Award - Thomas Giblin Association
- Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award
- Certificate of Special Recognition - Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust

One of Dorothea's consistent objectives throughout her volunteer and civic endeavors was the engagement of youth and young people. In all of her activities, she increased consistently and successfully the number of young women and men members. She also lobbied successfully to increase the number of young persons holding offices in those organizations. During her career and volunteer activities, she mentored many youth and young adults to ensure that young people were ready and prepared to assume leadership positions.

A life long Baptist, Dorothea joined Bethany Baptist Church under the pastorship of Rev. Dr. James Scott. She had come to value the friendship and wise counsel of Rev. Dr. M. William Howard, as well as many members of the Bethany family.

Dorothea departed this earthly world, Thursday, October 11, 2007. She leaves to mourn her beloved daughter, Denise, her cherished niece, Diana L. Reaves, nephew, David L. Taylor, sister, Diana L. Taylor, sister-in-law, Mary Lee, and aunts, uncles, cousins, and many relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her parents and her older brother, Charles.





Tribute to Dorothea Lee

On this day we call to remembrance our loved one, who freely gave of her life and love, and who has now found release from the burden of the flesh, and has entered into the place reserved for those who have placed their trust in Christ.

Sorrow abound throughout our land,

Our circle has been broken again!

Our hearts are heavy, our heads are bowed,

One we all loved has left our crowd.

But, we pause and reflect for a moment or two,

To pay a special tribute because it is due

The gap has been bridged, our friend is gone,

With grief uncontrollable our hearts do mourn.

Death came like a thief and claimed its own,

It is hard to believe that our friend is gone!

Laughable and lovable, and careful where she trod,

She always sought first the things of God,

She never coveted the things of men,

Nor did she worry about what might have been.

She began each day with praise and prayer,

And took God with her everywhere!

She laid stepping stones that led to God,

Not stumbling blocks upon the sod.

Chose carefully what she had to say,

And had much love that she gave away.

She sought higher goals than those of earth,

For what are the things of this world worth?

She was blessed, indeed, as we all know,

With a devoted family who loved her so.

They attended her wants and felt her needs,

And for them today our hearts do bleed.

It did not matter if she suffered pain,

Each time she stumbled she would rise again.

So, respect her wishes, we entreat you now,

Let there be no furrows to wrinkle your brow.

That we shall miss her of that there's no doubt,

But, let us get busy ere time runs out!

Let us so live that when we cease from sorrow,

We shall meet her again, on some glad tomorrow!

In the shadow of God's wing she is now at rest,

We all loved her so, but God loved her best!

May God bless you, may He keep you, and may He give you peace!

submitted by Eddiemae Livingston

Order of Service

Organ Prelude	Curtis Watkins
Processional	Clergy and the Family
Congregational Hymn	Blessed Assurance
Prayer of Comfort	
Scripture Lessons	Dr. Howard
Old Testament	
New Testament	
Musical Selection - Amazing Grace	Mary Bentley LaMar
Silent Reading of the Obituary	
Resolutions, Tributes, Reflections	
Musical Selection - His Eye Is On the Sparrow	Mary Bentley Lamar
Eulogy	Dr. Howard
Benediction and Recessional	

Interment:
Rosedale Cemetery,
408 Orange Road, Montclair, New Jersey
Repast
immediately following interment at
Bethany Baptist Church

Honorary Pallbearers

The Honorable Donald M. Payne, The Honorable William D. Payne, The Honorable George Branch.

Special Thanks

The Family acknowledges with deep appreciation the many comforting messages, floral tributes, and the heartwarming expressions of love and sympathy offered to us at our time of bereavement. May the Lord bless all of you and give you His peace.

Professional services entrusted to
Woody's Home for Services,
Orange, New Jersey



A Mother's Love is Forever

As children,

we can't comprehend

or fully realize

The meaning of our mother's love,

how tender and how wise,

The patience and forgiveness

that are part of every day,

The unexpected "little things":

she does in her own way.

Years go by before we can

look back on life and see

Through older eyes and wiser hearts

her love and loyalty,

And yet it's these and other special things

we'll hold so dear,

For memories of her steadfast love

will keep her ever near.

with love, Denise

